



WEST GULF MARITIME
ASSOCIATION

February 16, 1993

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

MAY 10 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

92-257
FEB 24 14 07 PM '93
PRIVATE RADIO SECTION
SPECIAL AGENT

U. S. Federal Communications Commission
Attn: Mr. George Dillon, Chief Aviation-Marine Branch
2025 M St. NW, Room 5114
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: VHF Channel 77
Galveston, Texas City Port Complex

Dear Mr. Dillon:

The Houston/Galveston Navigation Safety Advisory Committee is a statutory advisory committee to the U. S. Coast Guard made up of members of the community experienced and interested in navigational safety.

The committee has discussed the desirability of having Channel 77 available for use by certain shoreside interests which are intimately involved in vessel operations and coordination with pilots during docking and undocking maneuvers. These interests groups include line handlers, tug boats, harbor master, port authorities and dock superintendents, all of which need to interact to ensure the safe and efficient docking and undocking of vessels. The present restrictions for exclusive use of Channel 77 by pilots puts an unnecessary strain on the communications during some of the most crucial moments of a vessel's transit.

The committee recommends and fully endorses the request by the Galveston-Texas City Pilots that use of Channel 77 be expanded to include critical shoreside interests as outlined above. In our opinion such action would enhance safety, and should be authorized specifically for the Galveston-Texas City Harbor Complex and may be considered for other areas.

Very truly yours,

Ted Thorjussen
Chairman
HOUSTON/GALVESTON NAVIGATION
SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

No. of Copies rec'd 2 Copies
List ABCDE